` **LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 12, 2023**

**EMBASSY SUITES, BATON ROUGE**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)
ORAY ROGERS (O.R.)

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

ELMO BOUDREAUX – DEP. COMMISSIONER (E.B.)

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER (R.N.) – ABSENT – WORK OBLIGATIONS

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

J.S. moves to approve May minutes, T.F. seconds. H.W. moves to approve financial report, O.R. seconds. O.R. moves to pay bills, J.S. seconds. All ayes, motions approved.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Eddie and Sheri Cedotal

David Pitre

Kristian Guirola

Toye Taylor

Clarence Goodspeed

Mike Boudreaux

Otis Johnson

Jeff Guerrero – BKFC attorney/rep.

1. **RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Sheri Cedotal: applicant for Class B License, married to Eddie; formed an LLC so she can handle the B shows and her husband Eddie will do the A shows. J.G. reviews post nuptial agreement for her license…wants to confirm that Class B LLC will be separate property from Eddie. Takeover Wrestling LLC must not be commingled with other joint properties. Will table issue until JG can review the complicated docs. J.G. moves to table and advises he will review and contact Sheri before next meeting; .H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes.

Kristian Guirola MMA promoter and previously suspended because of issue with a venue. Ricky not here to verify his docs etc. J.S. advises he needs to bring Financial Statement, bond etc. to receive new license; says he provided proof of debt paid that Ricky has. Will bring all to next meeting when Ricky is here.

David Pitre - Applying for wrestling license; also previously suspended; done in 2021; would like a show in Houma, LA. Class B would be appropriate for the venues he has. Has sent applications to J.G. and E.B. J.G. says he can apply again and is in good standing. Reviews Class B promoter responsibilities; violations, injuries etc. B.E: would you be interested in an A License? Wants to do just B shows. Wants to do monthly events not just 2 shows. J.G: always been my position that Class B license holders are in the highest regard; since you’ve been suspended before, I would be comfortable with issuing you an A license. D.P: can I get a provisional?

B.E: would you agree to have an official at your first events such as Elmo and pay him? J.B: thinks that’s agreeable. See how it goes. J.G: doesn’t like the precedent we’re setting. J.S. moves to issue A license only; must establish a record everyone must, even experienced; Motion for Class B? No one will move that. J.S. moves again to issue class A first to Pitre. J.B. seconds; open discussion on if D.P. wants to do this or request a hearing on Class B refusal; request for hearing to be in writing with specific complaint ; go the Administrative Procedure Act, read it and bring a lawyer.

Otis Johnson wants to promote MMA and MAYBE boxing also; J.G. and B.E. review what he needs to do; go to website and review rules and application. Bring to next meeting: financials, bond etc. cannot hold boxing and MMA license; one or the other.

1. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Goodspeed wants clarification on show reservations; Mike Beadle and Mr. Goodspeed want a LLP and have Class B and Class A shows: J.G. says, like the Cedotals, that’s not going to work. One has to get off the new LLP. J.G. moves that E.B. must get him the new docs proving division before any events approved in LA and that is no longer a partnership or co-owned; H.W. seconds.

Open discussion on 2 show reservations/events at the same time in Plaq. Clarence G. and Eddie C. will waive their right as per statute. Goodspeed wants to promote the Class A shows. J.G. reiterates there are statutes that dictate promoters cannot have two shows within two weeks of each other to protect all promoters. He agrees. Eddie understands restrictions and waives objection to Mr. Goodspeed having a show within 2 weeks of his show. J.G. moves that we allow this as an exception; J.S. seconds. Confusion on dates penciled in. J.G. clarifies whoever pays show reservation first gets the date. Clarified that you can only have 2 shows reserved and paid for on the books at a time.

Review and approval of London Ring Fighting rules for NOI set for next meeting; J.G. so moves and J.B. seconds; all ayes.

1. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Open discussion on 2 show reservations/events at the same time in Plaq. Clarence G. and Eddie C. will waive their right as per statute. Goodspeed wants to promote the Class A shows. J.G. reiterates there are statutes that dictate promoters cannot have two shows within two weeks of each other to protect all promoters. He agrees. Eddie understands restrictions and waives objection to Mr. Goodspeed having a show within 2 weeks of his show. J.G. moves that we allow this as an exception; J.S. seconds. Confusion on dates penciled in. J.G. clarifies whoever pays show reservation first gets the date. Clarified that you can only have 2 shows reserved and paid for on the books at a time.

Issue on taxation of events. Some confusion on circumstances and/or formulation; J.G., in his capacity as Secretary, directs E.B. to collect 5% of gates of all shows, with the exception of Class B events, and present the fee sheets in files on all future shows. E.B. acknowledges and agrees.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

No issues.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Wrestling: 4/29 B show Mike Boudreaux in Houma; 4/29 A show Eddie Cedotal in Plaquemine; 4/29 A show Dannie Davis in Columbia; 4/30 WWE Bossier City; May 2 Josh Newel, also on 6/2. May 5 Eddie Cedotal in Metairie; 5/6 B show Mike Boudreaux in Denham Springs. 5/20 A show in River Ridge by Matt Lancie; A show by Eddie Cedotal 5/27 in Plaquemine.

Boxing: 5/27 by Melvin Davis in N.O.

MMA: No discussion.

J.G. moves to accept dates; O.R. seconds; motion passes.

1. **BARE KNUCKLES HEARING:**

J.G. moves to open hearing on license denial; J.B. seconds. Hearing commences.

Transcript by court reporter will be issued when available at a later date.

Results: LSBWC issues factual findings and grants license to BKFC. All ayes; J.S. abstains. No objections voiced by counsel for BKFC. J.G. moves to oppose legislation outlawing bare knuckle events; J.B. seconds. Ayes: J.G., J.B., O.R., and B.E. Nays: J.S., H.W. and T.F. Motion is passed.

**10) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting set for 5/24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites. O.R. moves to adjourn, J.B. seconds, meeting adjourned.